



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY CONTINUES TO COMBAT MOSQUITO INFESTATION ***Two County Locations Targeted for County's Third Aerial Application of Larvicide***

The County and the City of San Diego are joining forces in another proactive, strategic attack on mosquitoes. San Elijo Lagoon and Lake Kumeyaay off the San Diego River are known major mosquito-breeding sites and are targeted for this third aerial application of larvicide, which will take place on Wednesday, August 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Members of the media may observe the aerial application of Lake Kumeyaay at 10:00 a.m. (Thomas Guide page 1230, grid G-6). A media staging area will be located in the covered picnic area inside the Kumeyaay campground gate.

The treatment can be an effective way to combat West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne illness that has been detected in 44 states, but has not yet reached San Diego County. This plan was developed by the Vector Surveillance & Control Program of the County's Department of Environmental Health (DEH) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife, the California State Department of Fish & Game, and the City of San Diego and County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Departments.

Third District Supervisor Pam Slater said, "Various agencies have worked together to develop the most efficient, safe and effective aerial application of larvicide to stop mosquito infestation. Aerial application may prove to be the most effective method to fight the West Nile virus. I look forward to the results of this application to give us a clearer picture of the tools we have at our disposal to fight this problem."

On August 13th, granules containing *Bacillus sphaericus*, a naturally occurring bacterium registered by the Environmental Protection Agency for mosquito control, will be spread by helicopter. This method of application provides "pin point accuracy" in difficult-to-access wetlands. Designed to dissolve in water, the larvicide kills the developing mosquito larvae. *Bacillus sphaericus* is not toxic to humans and does not pose risks to wildlife, non-target species, or the environment, when used according to label directions.

Aerial application of larvicides is one of many tools that the County has to combat mosquitoes. The prior efforts have been in North County at Foss Lake/Libby Lake, Talone Lake, Guajome Park and Dulin Pond. Two applications were conducted at Buena Vista Lagoon. These applications have been effective in short term reduction of mosquito populations, but their effectiveness only lasts three to four weeks.

Last year, 44 states reported a total of more than 4,000 human cases of West Nile virus illness. To date, no human or animal cases of the disease have been reported in San Diego County. To avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, residents are encouraged to use insect repellent containing DEET, and wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Repair window and door screens to secure your house and keep mosquitoes out. Check your property for standing water and clean out wheelbarrows, buckets, birdbaths, old tires and rain gutters to prevent mosquito breeding.

For more tips on protecting your home and family, visit the County's official West Nile virus website at www.SDFightTheBite.com or call toll-free 888.551.INFO.

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